



NGET Independent Stakeholder Group Statement

NGET ISG INDEPENDENT CHAIR STATEMENT

This statement confirms that NGET has adhered constructively and positively to all aspects of the Enhanced Engagement Framework in Ofgem's Business Plan Guidance in relation to the establishment and operation of the Independent Stakeholder Group (ISG) and its involvement in monitoring how consumers and stakeholders have been engaged by NGET, and in how that engagement has affected the development of the RIIO-3 business plan. This statement contains no endorsement of the content of the Business Plan which we will review in response to Ofgem's Call for Evidence in January 2025.

Following the RIIO-2 Final Determinations, NGET committed to maintaining the Independent User Group on an enduring basis to hold the company to account on RIIO-2 delivery and to act as a "critical friend" on the key strategic issues for stakeholders and consumers in the energy transition and on NGET's culture and its processes for becoming more stakeholder-led. The Group continued to meet regularly and, at the beginning of the RIIO-3 process, was re-established by the company as the NGET Independent Stakeholder Group. The ISG's Terms of Reference and governance documents were amended to reflect the business plan guidance, and the ISG website updated. I reviewed and updated the ISG membership, appointing senior representatives of key stakeholder constituencies who, acting in an independent capacity, are able to represent the interests of existing and future consumers and stakeholders. As far as we are aware, NGET has ensured that the ISG has received all of the support and information that it needs to do its job, including a dedicated secretariat and all appropriate support for members.

The ISG has met eleven times since February 2024, the majority being all day face to face sessions with the NGET teams, and in closed session for part. We established our own workplan that included in-depth discussion on NGET's stakeholder engagement strategy and its proposals for: regional strategies; ASTI; responsible business; environment; IT/digital/data; connections; asset maintenance; deliverability; innovation; human network; land/property; resilience; business plan clarity and ambition; output delivery incentives; and finance strategy. Stakeholder engagement underpinned every discussion and NGET has provided, and sought our input on, the detailed engagement logs that accompany every topic.

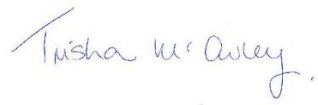
Prior to each meeting, we provided NGET with ISG "Evaluation Criteria," i.e. what we expected to see in the presentations and materials for discussion. NGET provided us with that information and, in general, we received the information we needed to monitor how consumer and stakeholder engagement has affected the development of the business plan. We have maintained a log of the formal challenges we raised at each meeting. The Challenge Log contains 148 challenges. NGET has responded to them all and we will comment on the quality of those responses in our response to Ofgem's Call for Evidence.

NGET leadership has been fully engaged in the process. NGET's President has attended nearly every meeting, and the Regulation Director and Head of Stakeholder Insight and Management are present at all times. In addition, I have met with the Regulation Director monthly and President bi-monthly. I attended the NGET Board meeting in September to discuss the key messages to the Board from the ISG. Relevant topic leads and teams are always present to set out proposals and discuss and listen to ISG feedback.

The ISG has also continued to hold NGET to account on the delivery of RIIO-2 commitments, receiving regular performance scorecards and conducting its annual deep dive on performance in September and reporting publicly on our view.

I am happy to provide positive feedback on the company's responsiveness, and on its openness and transparency in the sharing of information, and on the quality, timeliness and

relevance of that information. NGET have demonstrated senior executive leadership commitment to the work and the views of the ISG. We have received the support that we needed, and our independence has been respected at all times.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Trisha McAuley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Trisha McAuley OBE